

Claims

1. A *in vitro* method of screening candidate compounds for the ability to inhibit the binding of a selected integrin to a selected ligand which naturally binds to said selected integrin, said method comprising:

a) measuring the binding of an A-domain peptide derived from said selected integrin to said selected ligand in the presence of said candidate compound;

b) measuring the binding of said A-domain peptide derived from said selected integrin to said selected ligand in the absence of said candidate compound;

c) determining whether said binding is decreased in the presence of said candidate compound;

d) identifying inhibiting compounds as those which decrease said binding.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said selected integrin is a  $\beta 2$  integrin.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said  $\beta 2$  integrin is selected from the group comprising CD11a/CD18, CD11b/CD18, and CD11c/CD18.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said  $\beta 2$  integrin is CD11b/CD18.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein said  $\beta 2$  integrin is CD11a/CD18.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein said  $\beta 2$  integrin is CD11c/CD18.

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7. The method of claim 2 wherein said A-domain peptide is derived from the  $\alpha$  subunit of said selected integrin.

8. The method of claim 2 wherein in said A-domain peptide is a CD11b A-domain peptide.

9. The method of claim 2 wherein in said A-domain peptide is a CD11a A-domain peptide.

10. The method of claim 2 wherein said A-domain peptide is a CD11c A-domain peptide.

12. The method of claim 2 wherein said A-domain peptide is derived from the  $\beta$  subunit of said selected integrin.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said ligand is detectably labelled.

14. A *in vitro* method of screening candidate compounds for the ability to bind to a selected integrin, said method comprising:

a) measuring the binding of an A-domain peptide derived from said selected integrin to said candidate compound;

d) identifying compounds capable of binding said selected integrin as those which bind to said A-domain peptide.